Claim 1 has been rejected as obvious under Section 103 from Onada in view of Murase and Hannig. This rejection, repeated from paragraph 4 of the Office Action September 11, 2007, is respectfully traversed for the reasons of record, which are respectfully repeated by reference.

Regardless, Murase is not prior art, and therefore the rejection must fall. Murase is based on an application filed June 23, 2003, and therefore the filing date of June 23, 2003, is the earliest possible date for Murase as prior art. However, the present application is entitled to an earlier effective date by virtue of the Japanese priority application 2002-216840 which was filed July 25, 2002, approximately eleven months earlier than Murase. Attached please find a verified translation of the Japanese priority application.

Withdrawal of the rejection is in order and is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 8 have been rejected as obvious under Section 103 Onada in view of Murase and further in view of newly cited and applied Tanaka et al USP 6, 149,162 (Tanaka). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons pointed out above, i.e. Murase is not "prior art".

Withdrawal of the rejection is in order and is respectfully requested.

For the record, applicants respectfully disagree with the comments of paragraph 5 at the middle of page 4 of the Office Action, and respectfully repeat by reference applicants' comments in the preceding Reply of January 11, 2008, commencing with the penultimate paragraph on page 11 and extending through the top paragraph on page 16.

Insofar as the KSR ruling is concerned, applicants respectfully point out that KSR requires that the prior art provide a **reason** for combining reference, and applicants have pointed out that there is no such reason except the reason provided in applicants' own specification. Applicants also respectfully submit that KSR does not give blanket authority for the proposition that "obvious to try" always corresponds to obviousness; and, in any event, as applicants have already pointed out, it would not even have been "obvious to try" what applicants did.

Applicants note that Iwashita et al USP 6,325,285, has been cited but not applied. Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that it "is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure." Applicants nevertheless understand in view of the fact that such reference has not been applied against the claims, that it is deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently material to warrant its application against any of applicants'

claims, similar to other prior art previously cited but no longer relied upon. Applicants are proceeding in reliance thereof.

All the rejections of record rely on Murase which is not prior art. Accordingly, all such rejections should be withdrawn regardless of whether or not the examiner agrees with applicants' other remarks made above and/or respectfully repeated by reference, which are remarks the applicants respectfully maintain. Early formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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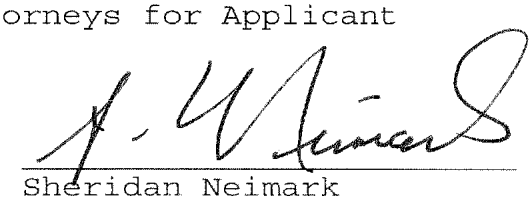
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
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